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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-10
NSAE-00 PA-02 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-15 TRSE-00
NSC-05 OMB-01 /078 W
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P R 061540Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO DECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
HQ USAF WASHDC
ASD WPAFB OH
F-16 CASEUR BRUSSELS BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

UNCLAS OSLO 1684

ODC SENDS

SECDEF FOR DSAA/ISA; HQ USAF FOR RDP; ASD FOR F-16 SPO;
USCINCEUR FOR ECJ4/7-SA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MASS, NO
SUBJECT: F-16 PROBLEMS

1. NORWEGIAN RADIO CARRIED A REPORT THIS MORNING BY ITS NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT TROND GERHARDSEN ON PURPORTED PROBLEMS WITH THE F-16. THE REPORT STATED "THE BUDGET OFFICE OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT (SIC) HAS ISSUED A REPORT CRITICAL OF THE F-16. THE REPORT NOTES THAT THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE PLANE'S HIGH SPEED ON THE RUNWAY, WHICH COULD BECOME DANGEROUS UNDER ICY CONDITIONS. THE U.S. AIR FORCE IS ALSO CONCERNED, THE REPORT SAID, BECAUSE THE F-16 ENGINE--WHEN UNDERGOING TESTS IN AN F-15--LOST POWER SEVERAL TIMES. THE AIR FORCE WOULD ALSO LIKE A BETTER EMERGENCY EJECTION SEAT CAPABILITY. THE BUDGET OFFICE
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REPORT ALSO CRITICIZES THE F-16 PROJECT FOR PRODUCTION DELAYS, INNUMERABLE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS AND COST INCREASES, WHICH IT SAYS HAVE MADE THE PROGRAM $7.7 BILLION MORE EXPENSIVE THAN EXPECTED. THE REPORT NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT MOST OF THE COST INCREASES STEM FROM PRODUCTION CHANGES AND NEW COMPONENTS THAT THE FOUR-MEMBER EUROPEAN F-16 PURCHASE CONSORTIUM WANT INCLUDED. IN A COMMENT ON THE

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REPORT, A GENERAL DYNAMICS SPOKESMAN SAID THE COMPANY WAS
NOT AWARE OF ANY ENGINE PROBLEMS NOR OF THE NORWEGIAN
GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN OVER ICY RUNWAYS."

2. THE REPORT APPARENTLY IS BASED ON AN APRIL 5 REUTERS'
NEWS RELEASE WHICH HAS BEEN PICKED UP IN ALL THE EPG COUNTRIES.

3. UNFORTUNATELY, THERE IS NO WAY OF ASSESSING NORWEGIAN OFFICIAL
REACTION OR INTENT TO REBUT AT THIS TIME, SINCE ALL APPROPRIATE
OFFICIALS ARE OFF FROM NOW UNTIL 12 APRIL FOR EASTER HOLIDAYS.

4. REQUEST WE BE PROVIDED ANY AVAILABLE INFO ON THE QUOTED
REPORT.
ANDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ALLEGATIONS, MILITARY CAPABILITIES, JET AIRCRAFT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2881862
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: F-16 PROBLEMS
TAGS: MASS, NO, US
To: DOD
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b11854a9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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